

RON THORNBURGH  
Secretary of State



First Floor, Memorial Hall  
120 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1594  
(785) 296-4564

## STATE OF KANSAS

**For more information contact:**

Jesse Borjon, Communications Director  
Office of the Secretary of State  
First Floor, Memorial Hall  
120 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1594  
785/296-4580  
jesseb@kssos.org

### *Media Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

## CONSTITUTION PARTY LOSES POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION

*Topeka, KS - Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh announced there will only be four recognized political parties for the upcoming election cycle. The Constitution Party failed to meet the statutory requirements to continue as a recognized political party in Kansas.*

In 1998, the Constitution Party filed the necessary petition to be a recognized political party in Kansas. State statute requires new parties to file a petition with signatures equal to 2% of the total votes for governor in the previous election. Parties are required to nominate one candidate for statewide office and receive at least 1% of the vote in the general election to maintain party status. The Constitution Party failed to nominate candidates for any statewide office in the upcoming general election, therefore losing party recognition in Kansas.

"I am required as the chief elections official to uphold the election laws in Kansas," stated Thornburgh. "State statute directs me to cancel party status if the recognized party does not meet the necessary requirements. Anyone who is currently a registered voter and affiliated with the Constitution Party will be changed to unaffiliated."

There are now four political parties recognized in Kansas: Democrat, Libertarian, Reform, Republican.

##